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Presqu'île Provincial
Park



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Presqu'île Provincial Park 1988



Ministry of
Natural
Resources

Vincent G. Kerro
Minister

The Marsh Experience

A "hands on, feet in" approach is certainly one good way to get to know a marsh. But if you're one of those people who's just as happy to forego the ooze between your toes, the wriggles in your rubber boots and the soggy socks, then the **Marsh Boardwalk Trail** is for you. Here, you and your family can get a close-up view of the Presqu'île marsh and, with the aid of a pair of binoculars, gain insight into the private lives of many of the marsh's most intriguing inhabitants.

Approach the marsh quietly, and you may be fortunate enough to get a brief glimpse of a few of its more bashful residents...

Scan the water's surface for the tip of a muskrat's nose or the flash of a mink diving into the water after a fish. Search the marsh vegetation for the island-like lodge of a beaver listen for the sounds of a family of mallards feeding in the shelter of some pickered weeds. You must be very quiet though, for as soon as these creatures detect your presence, they'll disappear into that wall of reeds and cattails which makes up the marsh.

Look for signs of birds and animals in the mud below the **Marsh Boardwalk**; you may see fresh tracks where some have come to drink or feed. With any luck, if there early in the morning, you may see a family of raccoons paddling among the cattails, returning home late after one of their nightly forays into the marsh. These masked rascals are nocturnal ramblers, and the first light of day finds them waddling back to their dens for a snooze.

Keep your ears tuned to the



Get a close-up look at the Presqu'île Bay marsh from the Marsh Boardwalk Trail.

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind that wall of cattails? Or what all those mysterious sounds are that come filtering through the reeds?

sounds around you; there will be unseen sounds coming from the marsh almost constantly.

No marsh scene would ever be complete without a resident flock of Red-winged Blackbirds—the males brilliant in their contrasting black suits and red shoulder flashes. Listen for the chattering voices of these birds as they chase each other beyond invisible territorial boundaries and bravely defend their nests from intruders.

Once in a while, you will hear the pumping song of an American Bittern, or see a

Common Moorhen as it swims out into a clearing between the reeds. This bird's nickname, "mudhen", has been well-chosen, for in many ways it looks like a chicken as it bobs its head back and forth.

Many marsh birds have a limited interest in making any human acquaintances. They prefer to skulk through the undergrowth, rather than come into the open.

Take the Virginia Rail for example. This bird's "klicking" and "grunting" noises are familiar marsh sounds, but rarely does the

bird ever reveal itself to marsh visitors. With legendary thinness the Virginia Rail slips through the sedges and reeds, its wedge-shaped body well-suited for the habitat in which it lives.

Occasionally a Green-backed Heron stops by the marsh in search of small frogs, fish and insects. You'll have to look carefully to see this bird, for it is small, no larger than a crow, and from a distance its head and shoulders look black, not green. When not otherwise occupied, this heron may be found crouched on a limb in one of the large Black Willow

trees along the shores of the marsh.

The droning of bees and the buzzing of insect wings add yet another dimension to life in the Presqu'île marsh. Perhaps a dragonfly will alight on a nearby railing and you'll have the rare opportunity to get a close-up look at one of the marsh's most aggressive hunters. This insect's large eyes and flexible neck make it a wary predator.

The water in Presqu'île Bay is slow moving and its numerous ponds and eddies provide homes for a variety of aquatic creatures. Whirligig beetles, mosquito larvae, dragonflies, and even microscopic water mites, all contribute to the diets of the marsh inhabitants. They appeal even to the varied tastes of the Pumpkinseed and the Bluegill, fish that live in the waters of the marsh.

There is beauty to be found in the marsh, from the delicate Lobelia and Blue Flag on shore to the white Water-lilies anchored in the open water. The lilies' large, platter-like leaves float on the water as though pasted to the surface, translating the marsh's every mood. These flowers add fragrance and color to the marsh and attract a number of pollinating insects and butterflies, some of which are caught and eaten by the frogs and turtles which also make the marsh their home.

Nothing to see from the **Marsh Boardwalk Trail**? Not if you pass by without stopping. But spend some time on this boardwalk and the fascinating world of nature may unfold before your very eyes.

Expose your family to the wonderful world of marshes. ■

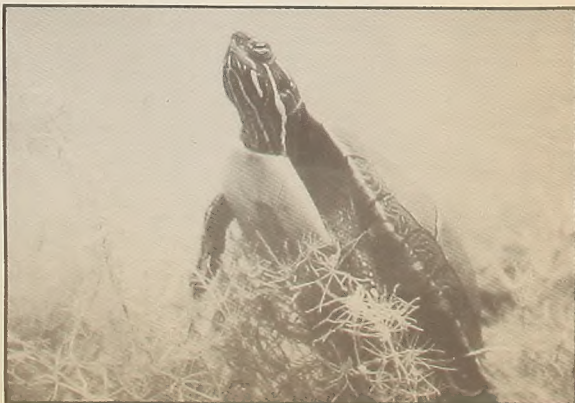
We Need Your Help

Fishing from the Boardwalk. Many of the fish that you see swimming below the Marsh Boardwalk during the late spring and early summer months are either guarding nests containing thousands of eggs or protecting their young from predators. Removing or otherwise disturbing these fish, even if only temporarily, allows predators such as snakes, turtles and other fish to move in and eat the unprotected young.

Please help the park and the resource by not fishing from the Marsh Boardwalk Trail. Thank you.

Cyclists on the Boardwalk. In recent years, many children (and parents too!) have started cycling on the walking trails in the park. This creates a problem for those travelling on foot, and especially for those walking on the Marsh Boardwalk Trail. In some places, particularly at corners, the trail is not wide enough for both pedestrian and cyclist to pass each other safely.

Cyclists, please make an effort to enjoy Presqu'île's scenery from its roadways and bicycle paths and leave the walking trails in the park to foot-traffic only. Thank you.



The Painted Turtle generally has a black to green upper shell, with red or yellow markings.

The Grandfather of Frogs



The male Bullfrog's song, "jug-o'-rhum" is often heard in the early summer evenings at Presqu'île.

Every wide-eyed child and meadow-walker in Presqu'île Provincial Park come alive with the calls of hundreds of male frogs and toads. These noisy creatures can make an otherwise silent lake sound like a poorly-tuned orchestra, but their vocalizing serves an important survival function. With their loud croaks, the males are telling one and all that they're home and anxiously waiting for a mate to join them in the territories that they've staked out for themselves.

Out of the eight species of frogs and toads found at

Presqu'île, the Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*) is by far the largest and most vocal. The male Bullfrog's song, a resounding, bass "jug-o'-rhum, jug-o'-rhum", is often heard in the early summer evenings along the Marsh Boardwalk Trail. The male's rumby voice is thought by some to resemble the bellowing of a bull; hence the name, Bullfrog.

Bullfrogs occur widely in Canada, ranging from the Atlantic coast to the Ontario-Manitoba border. They are our most aquatic frog, spending most of their lives in

the water or right along the shore. Bullfrogs are found in ponds, lakes, sloughs, large streams and rivers; wherever there is still, warm, semi-stagnant water. Like other wildlife, their abundance depends on good habitat.

Bullfrogs may be entirely green or a combination of green on the head and shoulders, and brown on the back. The upper part of their bodies may be covered with scattered, irregularly-shaped spots, while the undersides are white, and are often shaded with faint, dusky-grey mottlings under the legs and

head. Mature males have yellowish throats.

Quite often, people mistake the Green Frog for the Bullfrog. While the color and range of these two frogs are similar, the Bullfrog is noticeably larger. An adult male Bullfrog will generally attain a snout to rump length of 12.7 centimetres (five inches), but in exceptional cases may grow to be about 20.3 cm (eight inches) long.

Also distinctive about the Bullfrog, is the absence of folds or flaps of skin that extend down either side of its body, beginning behind the eyes and continuing down the full length of the back. These folds are fairly obvious on the Green Frog.

Unlike many of our smaller frogs, which breed in early spring, Bullfrogs wait until early summer to mate and lay their eggs. Although male frogs can be heard calling as early as April, the Bullfrogs' actual breeding and egg-laying take place from late May through June.

A female Bullfrog can produce up to 20,000 round, dark eggs at a time. The eggs are laid as a wide, floating mat of jelly on the water's surface, and are fertilized by the male as they are laid.

The adult female Bullfrogs, by the way, can be distinguished from their male counterparts by their smaller external ear (tympanum). The female's ear is about the same size as the eye; in males, the ear is two or three times larger than the eye.

The floating eggs are warmed by the sun and receive oxygen directly from the air to help the tadpoles develop quickly. Hatching takes place in about four or five days. The drab, olive-green tadpoles grow rapidly, but remain in their larval stage all through their first winter, which they spend safely in the mud at the bottom of the parent water body. During the following summer, the tadpoles will change into young Bullfrogs. ■

This will be Presqu'île's third year of participation in the **Ontario Herpetofaunal Summary**. The aim of this project is to record the distribution and abundance of frogs, salamanders, snakes and turtles in Ontario. Ultimately, an atlas will be produced for the entire province which illustrates the range of each species. Individuals with information concerning the locations of Presqu'île's reptile and amphibian species (even the common ones) are encouraged to contact the park's naturalists.

The Nocturnal Heron

Gull and High Bluff Islands in Presqu'île Provincial Park, harbour one of the most diverse bird colonies on the Great Lakes. Gulls, terns and cormorants are the most abundant and most visible inhabitants, however, the islands are also home to another much more secretive bird — the Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*).

When most of us think of herons, we automatically envision elegant-looking birds with long, slender necks and legs. But the Black-crowned Night-Heron hardly fits this description at all.

Instead of being tall and slender, the Black-crowned Night-Heron is small and stocky with short legs and a relatively stout neck and beak. In flight, it holds itself more like a gull or a crow than a heron; its neck is shortened, but folded back in true heron fashion.

As its name implies, the Black-crowned Night-Heron is most active at night. When not busy searching for fish and

crayfish, this heron spends much of its time, especially the daylight hours, roosting in the trees and marshes on Gull and High Bluff Islands. Its call, a loud, bark-like "kwawk", is often heard at dusk in and around the Owen Point area.

During the breeding season (April to September), the Black-crowned Night-Heron is the most numerous heron on the Presqu'île peninsula.

The Black-crowned Night-Heron arrives at Presqu'île in mid-April. The males quickly establish territories and then take part in an elaborate courtship ceremony with the females. The neck plumes displayed during courtship are beautiful, however, their beauty almost caused the demise of this and many other herons at the turn of the century. At that time, bird feathers were highly sought after by the millinery trade. Heron feathers, for example, were once valued at \$32 an ounce!

Once the period of courtship has ended, the parent birds begin nest building. The nests, built of twigs and coarse sticks



Night-Herons spend their daylight hours roosting in trees and marshes.

and lined with dry grasses and reeds, are constructed in low shrubs and trees. They range from substantial-looking platforms to very flimsy affairs. Some are so small and insecurely built that you can see the nest and young from below. Others are large, well-built structures that can survive even the most severe of winter storms and are used year after year.

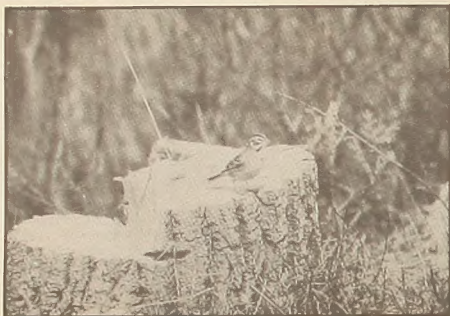
Young Night-Herons look a lot like the American Bittern, but lack its yellowish color and the black streak down the side of the neck. When disturbed, the young have a delightful habit of regurgitating their last meal. This, added to their excrement or whitewashing, often kills the trees in which they're nesting and eventually forces the adult birds to move the colony elsewhere.

In Ontario, the Black-crowned Night-Heron breeds almost exclusively in the south. It has regularly made Presqu'île its summer home since 1962, when the first 15 nests were discovered on Gull Island. Since then, the colony has relocated several times, as well as fluctuated in size. At last count in 1987, there were 32 nests on High Bluff Island (as compared to 40 on that same island in 1986).

To assist the Black-crowned Night-Heron in its province-wide recovery, we cannot stress enough how important it is to stay away from the Islands during the nesting season (**March 10 to September 10**). This species is not very tolerant of humans, and has been known to abandon its nests and young if disturbed. ■

If you would like to learn how and where to see a Black-crowned Night-Heron while at Presqu'île, then plan to attend one of the guided hikes or evening programs that focus solely on "herons" or talk to one of the park naturalists.

The Superintendent's Page



Ministry of Natural Resources

Another Rarity for Presqu'ile

On April 13, 1987, a new species was added to the ever-expanding bird checklist for Presqu'ile Provincial Park. The newcomer was the Lark Sparrow, a pugnacious little bird with vivid chestnut stripes and markings on its head. The Lark Sparrow is common only to western and southwestern North America.

1987 Birding Highlights

Presqu'ile once again proved to be one of Ontario's hot spots for birdwatching in 1987.

On April 13, Presqu'ile's bird species' list climbed to 310 as the park's first ever **Lark Sparrow** showed up. This sparrow was about 600 kilometres east of its normal range and stayed in the park for three days, allowing many birders an excellent opportunity to view it at close quarters.

The year also provided second records for three species. A pair of male **Eurasian Wigeon** appeared to set up residence on Gull Island for the latter half of May and could have stayed for the summer since a single male was seen again on September 6 and 27. As the name suggests, this species is of European origin but is seen regularly in North America, especially along the Atlantic coast during spring and fall migrations.

On October 5, a **Sabine's Gull** was easily picked out among a flock of roosting **Bonaparte's Gulls**, when it flapped its wings, displaying its unmistakable bold black, white and grey pattern. This high-arctic nester is usually pelagic (i.e. it follows the ocean coasts) on its migration to coastal South America, but every year a few are seen on the Great Lakes. Another exceptional gull record was the sighting of a **Laughing Gull** on October 11.

Presqu'ile is well-known for its variety and quantity of

shorebirds. In the spring, large numbers are seen when adverse weather forces the birds to land. On May 23, **2200 Dunlin**, **800 Least Sandpipers**, **55 Whimbrel** and **45 Red Knot** were seen. The fall migration is more regular, yielding consistent numbers and occasional rarities. This year, at least eight individual **Western Sandpipers**, one **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** and best of all, three **Red Phalaropes**, were observed at various times from August through to November.



Presqu'ile is one of the finest places to see and study birdlife.

Large numbers of shorebirds always attract predators and **five Peregrine Falcons** and **22 Merlin** were seen around Owen Point in the fall. Not attracted by the shorebirds, but seen in the same area, were two **Bald Eagles** (July 10 and November 8 - 11), a **Parasitic Jaeger** (October 3), and a **Short-eared Owl** (September 27, the park's first fall record).

Spring is a time for southern overshoots, and this year they included two **White-eyed Vireos** and an **Orchard Oriole**. Some of the less common migrants were seen in large numbers: **five Golden-winged Warblers**, **three Blue-winged Warblers**, **five Connecticut Warblers** and two **Cerulean Warblers**.

On October 1, about 400 thrushes and **500 White-throated Sparrows** were grounded near the Lighthouse. The movement of some sparrows through the park is not well-known, so the sightings of **Grasshopper Sparrows** on May 3 and September 2 and a **Clay-colored Sparrow** on May 11 were welcome.

As more birders frequent Presqu'ile, the extra eyes turn up larger numbers of the more uncommon species. **Twelve Red-throated Loons**, **three Red-bellied Woodpeckers**, **two Black-backed Woodpeckers**, **11 Little Gulls** and **eight King Eiders** were reported this year.

During the spring and fall migration seasons, we have a **Bird Sightings Board** set up outside the Campground Office. This board allows birders to report their sightings as well as learn what others have seen in the park. Whether you are an experienced birder, or just a beginner, we would appreciate your assistance in reporting your sightings. ■

(Story by Steve LaForest, Head Naturalist)

That's What Friends Are For...

In many of Canada's outstanding national and provincial parks, private organizations are emerging to assist governments in achieving park goals, particularly as they relate to environmental education. These non-profit organizations are commonly referred to as "Co-operating Associations" or "Friends" organizations.

We have recently established a co-operating association, called **The Friends of Presqu'ile Park**. This association will help to further the achievement of the park's goals by allowing visitors and volunteers from the local community to actively assist regular park staff with interpretive activities, publicity, and the preparation

and distribution of park-related publications.

A Friends organization might also assist the park in undertaking special projects such as: a bookstore in the Visitor Centre which would sell Friends products, including new books on various aspects of the park's natural and cultural history; the construction of more interpretive exhibits in the park; or the restoration of the famous Presqu'ile lighthouse.

If you would like to support and/or become a member of The Friends of Presqu'ile Park, please contact a staff member at any park office or write to: **The Superintendent, Presqu'ile Provincial Park, R.R. #4, Brighton, Ontario K0K 1H0.** ■

Short Takes

Dogs on the Beach

With over 100,000 people using Presqu'ile's beach each summer, dogs can create a serious health and safety problem and are therefore not permitted on the beach or in the swimming areas.

During the spring and fall, the beach is also an important resting and feeding spot for thousands of migrating birds. If dogs are allowed to roam the beach, then the birds are scared away and often won't stay long enough to replenish the energy needed for the next leg of their journey. So, for the benefit of all our beach users, we ask you to please **keep your pets off the beach.**

Fish Washing Up

Nearly every year, thousands of small silvery fish wash up onto Presqu'ile's shores. These fish are called **Aliwives**, and their periodic die-offs are not a result of pollution.

Originally a marine species, the land-locked **Aliwives** seem to be unable to adjust to the larger temperature fluctuations experienced in fresh water. The die-off occurs mainly in June and July, when these fish leave the colder, deeper waters of Lake Ontario and move into the warmer shallows to spawn.

Islands off Limits

Gull and High Bluff Islands are the breeding grounds for one of the most diverse water bird colonies on the Great Lakes. During the breeding season (**March 10 to September 10**) over 60,000 pairs of Gulls, Terns, Herons and Cormorants nest in the trees and on every square metre of ground available. Because competition is so intense, an ill-timed visit to the islands can create widespread panic, the separation of young from their parents, the robbing of nests by other birds, and the death of hundreds of chicks. For these reasons, we ask you to please **stay away from the islands.** Thank you.

Camper Information

Reservations

Presqu'ile has 394 campsites. Two hundred and eighty-two of these sites are available through the reservation service.

Reservations are generally not required during the spring and fall months, however, if you plan to camp at Presqu'ile on the Victoria Day Weekend or at any time from late June to Labour Day, you should make a reservation. You can reserve a campsite by telephone, by mail or in person. We charge a small fee for this service.

You can guarantee your reservation by prepaying for the full amount of your stay, including your reservation fee, at least two weeks in advance of your visit. This guarantees that a specific site will be held for you for 24 hours beginning at 2 p.m. on your expected date of arrival. Without prepayment, a site will be held only until 6 p.m. on your expected date of arrival.

While we make every effort to accommodate requests for specific campsites, we cannot guarantee a specific site until we have received your payment in full.

Reservation and camping fees are payable to the Treasurer of Ontario by cheque, money order, Visa or MasterCard. Reservation application forms are available from the Park Office or your local District Office of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

For the 1988 camping season, **reservations will be accepted only after the first working day in April.** This policy is in effect throughout the entire provincial parks system. If you would like more information regarding this policy or the reservation service in general, please consult the 1988 Ontario Provincial Parks Guide, visit the reservation desk at our Park Office or write to us at: **Presqu'ile Provincial Park, R.R. #4, Brighton, Ontario, K0K 1H0**; or telephone us during normal business hours at (613) 475-2204.

Waiting List and Roll Call

In addition to reservation sites, we offer 112 sites on a first-come, first-served basis. To be eligible for a campsite, visitors must obtain a waiting list number from the Campground Office and attend each of the three daily roll calls. The roll calls are held outside of the Campground Office at 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. If you miss a roll call, your name will be taken off the waiting list.



Presqu'ile's Regional Setting

Self-Serve Fee Collection

Occasionally our gatehouses are left unattended. When this occurs, we ask that you pay for your day-use and camping fees at a self-serve fee collection station.

Simply fill in the information required on the envelope provided at the fee collection station, enclose your exact fee and place your sealed envelope in the deposit box. Sorry, but refunds are not available and you must be prepared to make your own correct change.

The fee collection stations are self-explanatory, however, if you need assistance, stop by the Park Office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily from mid-May to Labour Day, and

on weekdays only from Labour Day to Thanksgiving.

Group Camping

Eight group camping sites are available at Presqu'ile. These sites are generally open to youth or special groups, however, when not in use, they may be reserved by adults.

Requests for the use of Presqu'ile's group camping sites must be made in writing and received at least two weeks prior to the group's arrival.

According to the Public Health Act, organized groups of 10 or more people, camping for 5 or more consecutive nights in a provincial park, must obtain a summer camp licence. Licences may be

obtained from the Haliburton-Kawartha-Pine Ridge District Health Unit, 35 Alice Street, Brighton, Ontario, K0K 1H0.

Facilities provided at our group camping sites include: firepits, vault toilets and drinking water. Ask at the Park Office for further details.

Alcoholic Beverages

Alcohol is banned at Presqu'ile from May 13 to 23, 1988. Once the ban is lifted, you may consume alcoholic beverages only on your registered campsite.

Additional Vehicle Parking

In many provincial parks, you

are allowed to park only one vehicle on your campsite. At Presqu'ile, we have a number of sites which will comfortably accommodate a second vehicle without causing damage to the surrounding vegetation. Thus, we are able to offer campers the convenience of parking a second vehicle on their sites.

There are approximately 130 second-vehicle-sites in the park and you will find these posted on the registration board at the Camp Office. Please do not drive your extra vehicle any more than necessary.

If you obtain a campsite which is not designated for two vehicles, please park your additional vehicle in the visitor parking area in your campground loop. Permits are required for all vehicles and must be displayed in clear view on your vehicle's dashboard.

Pay Telephones

You will find public pay telephones at the Park Store and Camp Office.

In An

Emergency:

First Aid

First aid is available from all park offices and vehicles. In the event that you suspect a drowning or require first aid, please approach any member of our staff. Most staff are trained in basic first aid and can offer assistance with minor cuts and scrapes.

Emergency Telephones

Emergency telephones are located on Beach #1 and #3. Once you lift the receiver on one of these telephones, an alarm sounds in the Park Office.

Emergency Numbers

Park Office ... (613) 475-2204

Police (613) 475-1313 or Zenith 50,000

Fire Dept. (613) 475-2233

Ambulance ... 1-800-267-2151

Hospital (613) 392-2541

Beach Supervision

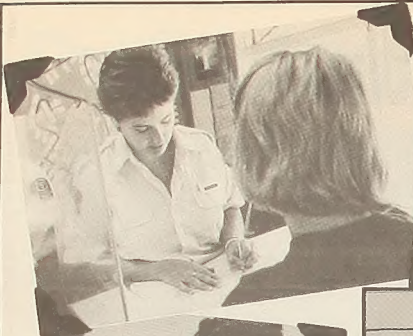
Parents, our beach areas are not supervised, so you must accept responsibility for your children's health and safety at all times. If you suspect a drowning or any other type of water emergency, please use the emergency phones to contact the Park Office.

From the Park Office, we can immediately notify all of our staff by radio.

BIRDING EVENTS

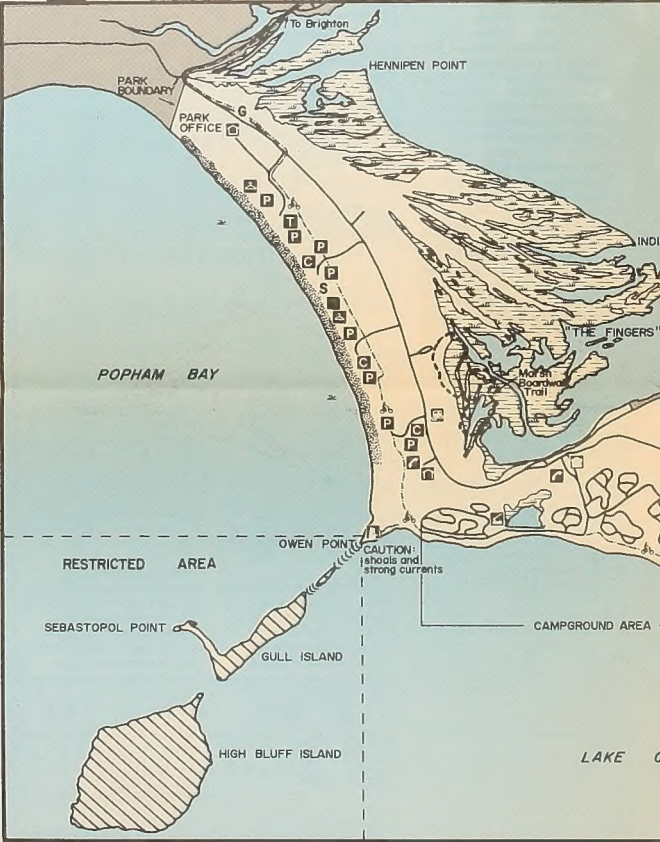
JOIN US EACH SPRING AND FALL FOR...

Waterfowl Viewing	Bird Sightings	Fall Migration
<p>For a short time each spring, Presqu'ile's open bays, marshes and ponds attract a terrific number and variety of waterfowl. The park is one of the best spots in Ontario to see the annual waterfowl migration. To help you enjoy what you see and hear, Presqu'ile offers two Waterfowl Viewing Weekends. This year, the weekends are March 26-27 and April 2-4. Naturalists are on hand from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to operate telescopes, identify the different kinds of ducks and point out distinguishing field marks. Bring binoculars if you have them.</p> <p>N.B. Regular park fees will be in effect.</p>	<p>Visitors interested in birds are invited to visit the Bird Sightings Board near the Camp Office. The board serves as an information exchange where birders may record their own data while checking on species that have been noted by others. It is set up from mid-April to mid-June and again from late August to early November. During the summer months, a Sightings Book is maintained at the Visitor Centre.</p> <p>This is the second year of our Spring Birding Programme. Each Sunday in May, at 10 a.m., an outing will be led by an experienced naturalist. The meeting location will be announced on the bulletin boards. A Fall Birding Programme will run from Labour Day to October 30, 1988.</p>	<p>The Birds and Butterflies Weekend, held from September 3 to 5, tops off a year of interpretive events and programmes at Presqu'ile. The weekend of fern birdwatchers a chance to see and learn more about migrating song and shore birds. Slide talks, bird-banding demonstrations and special hikes, led by park naturalists and guest speakers, make this a highly popular three-day event.</p> <p>All activities are designed for the interested amateur; you don't have to be an experienced birder to participate.</p> <p><i>If you would like more information, please call the Park Office at (613) 475-2204 or drop by the Visitor Centre.</i></p>



"There are so many things to see and do while you are here that it's often difficult to know where to begin."

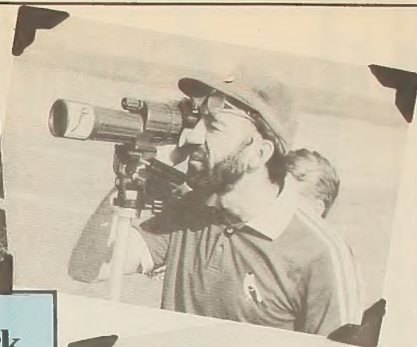
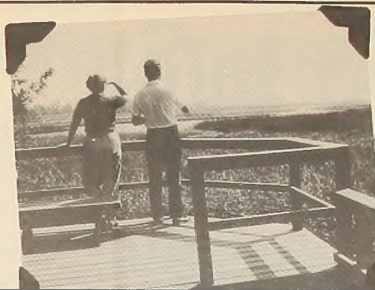
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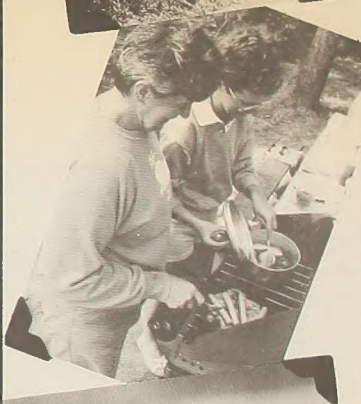
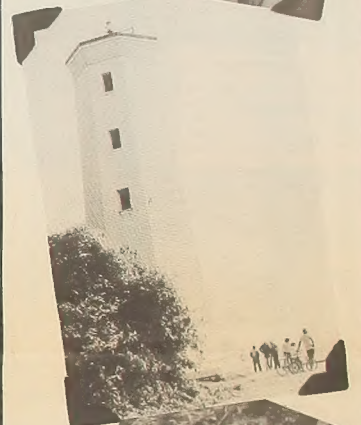
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|--|-----------------------|--|---------|
| | Presqu'île Lighthouse | | Hiking |
| | Visitor Centre | | Access |
| | Picnic Tables | | View |
| | Boat Launch | | Park |
| | Private Property | | Bicycle |
| | Camp Office | | Marsh |
| | Woodlot | | Trail |
| | Pay Telephone | | Snack |

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Brian Peck,
Superintendent



Presqu'ile Provincial Park



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|-----------------|----|-------------------|
| Trail | G | Gatehouse |
| Prohibited | P | Park Store |
| | B | Beach Area |
| | T | Toilet |
| Path | C | Comfort Station |
| | W | Watersport Rental |
| Dumping Station | CH | Change House |
| ar | S | Swimming |



More Camper Info!

Firewood

You can buy firewood in one cubic foot bundles from the Firewood Concession located at the entrance to High Bluff Campground.

During the 1988 camping season, the concession's operating hours will be:

May 13 to June 16
(Fridays and Saturdays)
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Victoria Day Weekend
(Thursday through Sunday)
5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

June 12 to September 5
(Daily)
5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

September 6 to October 10
(Fridays and Saturdays)
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Trailer Sanitary and Refill Station

The trailer sanitary and refill station is located opposite to the entrance to Beach Area #4 along the main park road.

To ensure that trailer wastes do not spoil sites for other campers, we ask that you dump the contents of your sink at any vault toilet, comfort station or at the trailer sanitary station.

Garbage Disposal

When you register at the Camp Office, you will receive a garbage bag. Please leave your sealed bags of garbage in the disposal compounds located at the exit of each campground area, before 2 p.m. each day. Do not leave garbage at your campsite, because it attracts insects and animals, and creates an unpleasant smell. Additional garbage bags are available from the staff at our Camp Office.

Comfort Stations

Comfort stations, with hot and cold running water and electrical outlets, are located in the Maples, Pines, Hidden Valley and High Bluff Campgrounds. There are also vault toilets conveniently situated throughout the park.

Showers

The comfort stations in Maples, Hidden Valley and High Bluff Campgrounds have showers.

Towing Mirrors

Towing mirrors pose a hazard for children and fellow campers. Please help us to prevent accidents by removing the towing mirrors from your vehicle after your trailer has



Poison Ivy — Avoid making any rash contacts!

been unhitched.

Drinking Water

You can get fresh drinking water from any of the water fountains or comfort stations in the park.

Church Services

Interdenominational church

services are held at 10:00 a.m. in the Park Amphitheatre on every Sunday morning from July 5 to September 6. The times of other church services in the Brighton area are available from both the Park and Camp Offices.

Pets

Unrestrained pets pose a

hazard to park visitors and wildlife. For everyone's health and safety, we ask that you keep your pet on a two-metre-long leash and away from designated swimming and beach areas.

Park Store

Groceries, ice, camping supplies, bicycle rentals, fast

food and souvenirs are available at the Park Store.

The store is located 300 metres south of the entrance to Beach #4. There is a small snack bar on Beach #2.

Windsurfing Concession

Boardsailing lessons and sailboard rentals are available from the Windsurfing Concession located on Beach #2.

Bicycle Trails

Cyclists are encouraged to use the scenic bike trail which begins at Beach #1, passes through the campground areas, and connects to the Lakeshore Road.

Excessive Noise

Loud music and excessive noise can disrupt a good night's sleep and daytime peace. Please respect the feelings of your fellow campers and keep the park quiet at night and reasonably quiet in the daytime too. Let us know of any incidents of undue noise immediately. With your help, we can ensure that everyone has a pleasant and quiet vacation.

Complaints

If you have a complaint, report it immediately to any of our park offices or staff. Appropriate action will be taken as soon as possible.

Your Comments Please!

We want to know what you think about our services, facilities and interpretive programmes. Even more importantly, we want you to know that a safe environment is being maintained for you. Please alert us to any conditions that you feel may be hazardous to visitors, and help us to assess the quality of our services by filling out the comment card on the back of your campsite permit and dropping it in the permit return box at the Camp Office when you leave. Your co-operation is appreciated.

Local Events and Attractions

If you would like to know more about the Brighton, Campbellford, Trenton and Bay of Quinte areas, then drop by our Visitor Centre located at the eastern tip of the park. There are numerous publications and maps available here. We think that you will find many of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation's brochures and booklets, as well as the Bay of Quinte Guide Book, particularly useful.

Summary of Ontario Provincial Park Rules

What are the basic rules that apply in Ontario Provincial Parks?

This is a summary of rules, prepared for your convenience, and is not a complete list of the various regulations which apply in provincial parks.

There is one basic rule in Ontario Provincial Parks: HAVE RESPECT AND CONSIDERATION FOR YOUR FELLOW VISITORS AND THE PARK ENVIRONMENT.

Loud Noise - Disturbing Other Persons: Be considerate. Please keep the volume of your music - and your voices - to a reasonable level. Interfering with anyone else's use or enjoyment of a park, day or night, is not only inconsiderate - it is also contrary to park regulations.

Alcoholic Beverages: Most provincial parks permit drinking of beer, wine and other spirits, - but only on a registered campsite. Drinking, or the possession of an open container of alcoholic beverage in any other area of the park is against the law. And please take note - some provincial parks prohibit the consumption or possession of alcohol during the spring camping season.

Camping and Vehicle Permits: Please remember that you must have a permit to camp or to use your vehicle in a provincial park.

Additional Vehicles: A number of designated parking spaces are set aside in each park for additional vehicles. However, when a park is full or nearly full, it may not always be possible to secure a parking space for a second vehicle.

Unlicensed Motor Vehicles, All Terrain Vehicles: Provincial parks and park roads are not for the use of

ATV's, off-road motorcycles or any other unlicensed vehicles. They may be operated only in an area designated for that use.

Bicycles: May be operated on roads or trails designated for that use only.

Parking: Vehicles may be parked only in areas provided for that purpose.

Check Out Time: Check out time is 2 p.m. on the day of your departure. You must vacate your site by that time. Campsite vacancies cannot always be guaranteed - it is best to call ahead and reserve a campsite.

Length of Stay: The maximum length of stay in a provincial park campground is 23 days in a year.

Park Resources: They're yours to enjoy, so help us to protect them. Our parks are full of interesting and precious vegetation, wildlife, natural earth features and archaeological/historical sites. Remember it is against the law to remove or destroy anything in a provincial park.

Pets: All pets must be kept under control and on a leash, and are not allowed in swimming areas or on any beach.

Campfires: Fires are permitted in fireplaces only. PLEASE be careful with fires, at all times.

Hours of Closing: Only registered campers may remain in a provincial park during the posted hours of closing - 10 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Number of People Per Site: A maximum of six persons or one family unit is permitted on each campsite.

Refuse: Please have regard for the

condition of your campsite. Deposit all your garbage and litter in the containers provided and leave your campsite in a clean and natural state.

Fireworks: Possession or use of fireworks in any provincial park is prohibited at all times.

Firearms: Firearms are not permitted in provincial parks, except by regulation.

Hunting: Hunting is not allowed in provincial parks except in specific areas defined in the hunting regulations.

Boating, Waterskiing: Act safely and in accordance with the regulations when boating or waterskiing. Please check - the use of motorboats may be restricted or prohibited in some provincial parks.

Leaving Vehicles or Boats Unattended: You may not leave your vehicle or boat unattended in a provincial park, except in an area designated for that purpose or by permission of the Park Superintendent.

Sale of Goods and Services: Only authorized concessionaires are permitted to sell goods and services in a provincial park.

There is a Provincial Parks Act as well as other legislation in which all the laws that apply in provincial parks are set out. These are available at the Park Office and you are invited to examine them.

THE PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF THESE LAWS MAY BE EVICTION FROM THE PARK OR A FINE IMPOSED BY THE COURTS OR BOTH.

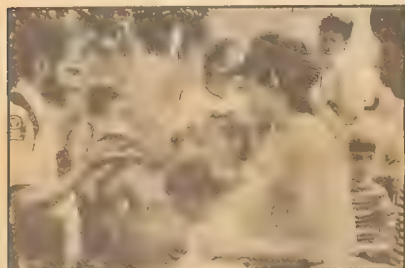
Discover Presqu'île...



Wm Lanning

At the Visitor Centre

Get to know the history of Presqu'île's famous Lighthouse, make your own fossils, or try your hand at identifying some local trees and ferns. Everything you ever wanted to know about Presqu'île is yours for the asking at the Visitor Centre, open daily from July 1st to Labour Day.



1 van der Grinten, 8181

On a Guided Hike

Throughout the spring and summer months, the naturalists offer hikes to some of the most interesting places in the park. Look for frogs and turtles along the Marsh Boardwalk Trail. Listen for night-herons at Owen Point. Or marvel at the miracle of migration. Hikes last about one hour and are suitable for all ages.



二

Under the Stars

Top off your stay at Presqu'île by attending one of our many evening programmes. Through slide shows, films and guest speakers, our naturalists will help you discover the park's rich and varied past; explore its dunes and marshes; or take a candid look at its wildlife. We offer three evening programmes and one campfire each week.



1900

At a Children's Programme

Learn nature's secrets on a nature walk. Discover the marsh, with its bitterns, beavers and worm-eating plants. Or search for snails, salamanders and wildflowers in the forest. Why there are even special evening programmes designed just for kids!

Hey Kids...Let us show you the fun side of the park!

Become a Junior Naturalist

At every interpretive event this summer, one of the naturalists will give out a secret password. (Interpretive events include: hikes, evening and special programmes - both children's and regular - and family campfires). All you have to do is attend three interpretive events (at least one must be a children's programme) and write down the password each time. When you have filled a ticket (or listed the dates and passwords of the events that you attended on a sheet of paper), come to the Visitor Centre and we will award you our special Young Naturalist Certificate.

We also have a questionnaire at the Visitor Centre which you may fill out and submit for a password as well. Check the bulletin boards for upcoming events and start collecting your passwords today!

Junior Naturalist Ticket		
Date	Event	Password



Notes on contributors



Ministry of Natural Resources

Psst ... want to try some nature?

Presque's former Kids' Week has now blossomed into a full series of special events and activities which are offered throughout the summer months. Nature hikes, arts and crafts, films, slide shows and other presentations are regular features of this programme. If you've never had the chance to make your own fossil, take part in a mock trial, or meet the lighthouse keeper's ghost, then you're in for a real treat!

On the more dramatic side, we offer evening programmes for children of all ages. These include: skits, visitors from the park's past, and plenty of good old audience participation.

Another event, which is specially designed for families with children, is the campfire show. Come share with us some favorite songs, some good times, and some homebrew - hot chocolate and herbal tea, that is!

Monarchs of Migration

Every wide-eyed child and meadow-walker in North America knows the Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) by sight, if not by name. During the summer months, this majestic-looking black and orange butterfly skips and dips over fields and gardens from Texas to New England, from Florida to Minnesota. But when winter approaches, the monarch disappears from the colder regions of North America.

Where does it go?

In one of nature's most impressive pageants, roughly 100 million Monarch Butterflies travel from southern Ontario to Mexico and back, a distance of over 3,700 kilometres. On the first leg of their journey many Monarchs are funnelled through the Presqu'ile Peninsula, where they gather in thousands before attempting to cross Lake Ontario.

The Monarch Butterfly winters in tiny patches of Oyamel fir forest in the Sierra Madre Mountains of central Mexico. In this Mexican refuge, consisting of only two or three hectares (five to seven acres), Monarchs from the eastern two-thirds of North America blanket the trees by the millions.

By late February, the drive to reproduce sends the butterflies northward. Most males will not complete the round trip, however, many females - worn and tattered from two migratory flights - will arrive in Ontario from late May through early July to lay their eggs and die.

Monarchs have a life or death dependency on a group of plants known as the milkweeds. The reason: milkweed leaves are the only suitable food for the monarch caterpillar. Consequently, the monarch's range is restricted to those areas where milkweed

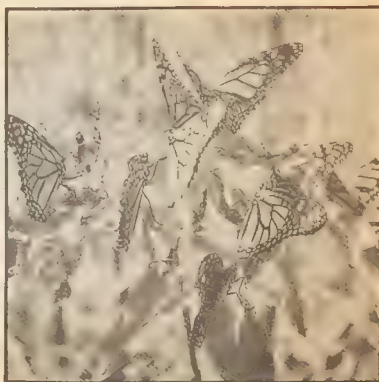
is found.

Scientists believe that the milkweed plant originated in Mexico and gradually spread throughout North America over a period of millions of years. As the milkweed moved north, the monarch followed. This might explain why the monarchs continue to migrate back to Mexico each winter.

Two generations of Monarchs are produced during the summer months: the first, from mid-July through August; and the second, from mid-August through September. It is the second generation that makes the remarkable journey southward. Rather than breeding, these butterflies prepare for their fall travels by fueling up and storing the energy they obtain from flower nectar.

Fall migration begins in August, and becomes more apparent as temperatures and daylight hours decrease. The mass movements southward by the butterflies are initiated by sudden cold snaps and may be sustained by tail winds from the north.

The Great Lakes are a physical barrier to the southbound Monarchs. Hesitant to cross open water, the Monarchs choose to follow the shoreline. When they reach the end of a long peninsula, like Presqu'ile, they generally wait for tail winds and good weather before attempting to cross. Presqu'ile's boot shape and strategic southern location



Up to 10,000 Monarchs may cling to tree branches in the Owen Point area.

The Brighton Independent

on the Great Lakes make it a key area for the Monarchs to concentrate during their fall migration.

At the peak of the Monarch migration (which may begin as early as August 15th but generally gets its start about late August), up to 10,000 Monarchs may be seen clinging to tree branches at the extreme tip of Owen Point in Presqu'ile Provincial Park. If you're walking around Owen Point or the Presqu'ile lighthouse at that time, look for Monarch Butterflies with small, white tags on the tips of their wings. These tagged butterflies are part of a research project being conducted by North American scientists and naturalists to

determine the migration patterns of this popular and colorful butterfly.

To date, Colborne area naturalist, Don Davis, has tagged more than 7,000 Monarch Butterflies at Presqu'ile Provincial Park. Several of the Presqu'ile Monarchs, tagged by Davis, have been recovered from as nearby as upper New York State, but others have been reported from as far away as Texas and Florida. Although some Monarchs are found alive, most have been discovered dead - often in the grilles of cars. One of the more unusual recoveries involved a Monarch that landed on a golf ball an instant before a golfer swung his club! ■



Colborne area naturalist, Don Davis, displaying a tagged Monarch

Lyndon Kiv

Jobs' Woods: Through the Seasons

A walk through a forest community like Jobs' Woods is fascinating at any time of the year.

Autumn

In October, the beeches and maples of Jobs' Woods become a shimmer of red, bronze and yellow - so utterly dazzling, that the entire woodland looks like a giant stained-glass window. Walking among the dead and fallen trees, you'll see multicolored mushrooms and fungi of all shapes and sizes. The litter underfoot is thick and spongy, and if you search carefully among the leaves and stumps, you will find numerous small creatures preparing for winter.

Winter

Jobs' Woods is a quiet, remote place on a cold winter's day, with blue shadows stretching across the trail and golden sunlight



As early as April, the delicate Bloodroot comes into bloom

Mike Lee/S. S. Resources

fingering its way obliquely through the ranks of trees. Occasionally, a couple of White-tailed Deer will happen along the trail. Even the southerly cardinal, a relative newcomer to winter in the north, is seen here, lending its spot of red to the snowscape.

Spring

Another season comes to

Jobs' Woods in late March, when hundreds of salamanders awakened from their cold-induced slumber.

On mild evenings, they begin crawling back to the woodland ponds where they were born. Most salamanders must return to water in the spring to lay their eggs, although some, like the Eastern Redback Salamander, court, breed and lay their eggs without ever

entering the water.

As early as April, the forest floor becomes a carpet of glorious wildflowers. The first wave of early bloomers includes the yellow haze of Trout-lilies, the lavender of the Hepatica and the delicate white of Bloodroot. A second flush of color comes in May with the advent of the Red Trillium, the Jack-in-the-Pulpit, and a variety of violets.

In May, the wood warblers arrive and begin building their nests. Jobs' Woods is then suddenly alive with these tireless little bits of energy, and you will often find yourself at a loss as to which way to turn in discovering them all. Some warblers pass by on migration; others remain to nest. Nests can range in height from the ground-level "oven" of the Ovenbird to the trim little cup of the American Redstart

found high in the treetops.

Summer

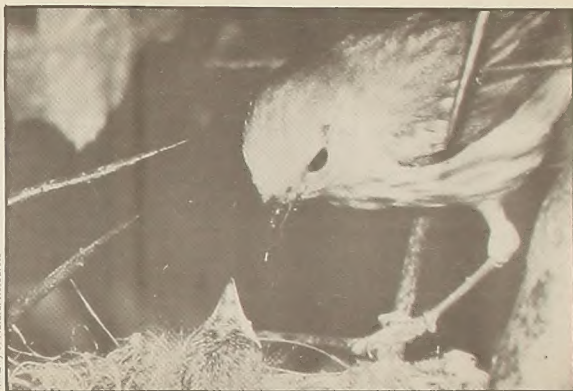
A late-July day deep in Jobs' Woods. With a brilliant blue sky burning overhead, the dense cedars and hemlocks along the trail seem almost black in the humid heat. Every so often, your hike is brightened by the sight of a Spinulose Woodfern or the fleeting glimpse of a Pileated Woodpecker, and then perhaps a Brown Creeper. You'll have to listen carefully for chipmunks and red squirrels scurrying through the tree branches or the vesper songs of thrushes.

Jobs' Woods is cheeriest in the spring and fall, when its colorful wildflowers and mushrooms are beautiful and brilliant beyond belief. And yet this trail, with its fascinating discoveries, is certainly one which should not be missed during any season of the year. ■

Where to Birdwatch at Presqu'ile

*According to Clive E. Goodwin,
author of A Birdfinding Guide to
Ontario:*

*"Presqu'ile has the best mix of
habitats in a small area in the entire
province. It (Presqu'ile) can
produce superb birding."*



Ministry of Natural Resources

During migration, hundreds of warblers collect in the trees around the Visitor Centre and along Paxton Drive.

Presqu'ile Provincial Park is rapidly becoming known as one of Ontario's finest birding hot spots. The park's rich mixture of marshes, protected bays, sand dunes, beaches, and field and forest communities meets the nesting requirements of 130 different bird species. The Ontario Bird Breeding Atlas has ranked Presqu'ile's square as one of the highest and most productive in the Province. More than 300 bird species have been recorded here and the number seems to be increasing by about four species per year.

Although birds can be found in all parts of the Presqu'ile peninsula, certain areas have displayed a greater diversity and/or larger numbers of birds through the years. The following is a list of Presqu'ile's best birding areas, and a brief outline of what birds might be found in them. For specific locations, refer to the centrefold map on pages 6 and 7 of this tabloid.



This Lesser Yellowlegs is just one of many shorebirds you'll see on Presqu'ile's beaches.

Ministry of Natural Resources

The Causeway

During migration, Common Moorhens, American Coots, and numerous ducks (including Ring-necked Ducks and Hooded Mergansers) congregate in the vicinity of the Causeway. In winter, small numbers of Swamp and Song Sparrows occasionally turn up here.

Fingers

In summer, the Fingers' northern plant community attracts nesting Winter Wrens, Nashville Warblers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Pine Warblers, Purple Finches and White-throated Sparrows. The Fingers are also the best place in the park to see Great Horned Owls and Pileated Woodpeckers.

The Marsh Boardwalk

The newly-reconstructed Marsh Boardwalk provides an opportunity to observe many nesting species. Pied-billed

Grebes and Swamp and Marsh Wrens are easily viewed, while both species of bittern are often heard and sometimes seen. It is also worthwhile visiting this site in August. Tens of thousands of swallows generally come to roost here near dusk.

Owen Point - Beach Area

If you had to pick one area on the entire Presqu'ile peninsula to visit during the warmer months, that place should be Owen Point and the adjacent Beach Area. During fall migration, this area teems with shorebirds, gulls, ducks, sparrows and hawks. Some very exciting birding can occur here, when huge flocks of shorebirds are forced down from higher altitudes during violent rainstorms. If you're lucky, you might see some White-rumped, Baird's or Stilt Sandpipers.

Owen Point is also the area where the majority of Presqu'ile's rare bird sightings have occurred. There have been some truly outstanding rarities reported, such as Canada's first-ever record of a Mongolian Plover, in addition to the rare American Oystercatcher, American Avocet, Curlew Sandpiper and White Pelican.

On summer evenings, Great Blue Herons, and to a lesser extent, Black-crowned Night-Herons, gather in large numbers at the Owen Point pond to feed.

Gull and High Bluff Islands

Approximately 60,000 pairs of Ring-billed Gulls nest on the islands, as well as lesser numbers of Herring Gulls, Common and Caspian Terns, and Black-crowned Night Herons. Large numbers of ducks collect around the

islands as well; and Gadwalls, Northern Pintails and Mallards commonly nest there, with occasional nestings by the Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon and Redhead. In the dead of winter, when most of the other birds have left, you may see Snowy Owls sitting on the ice floes and Rough-legged Hawks perched atop the islands' trees.

Gull and High Bluff Islands have been wisely zoned as wilderness areas, and should not be disturbed during nesting season (March 10 to September 10). You can get a good view of the islands from Owen Point.

Lakeshore Drive

From September through May, many wintering ducks such as the Common Goldeneye, the Bufflehead and the Oldsquaw can be seen along Lakeshore Drive. In October all three scoters can be seen, and in November, along the west end of the road, there will sometimes be King Eiders swimming offshore. If enough algae has washed up on the rocks, shorebirds, like the Purple Sandpiper, will also be found.

Visitor Centre - Newcastle Woods

During migration, hundreds of warblers and sparrows collect in the trees around the Visitor Centre and along Paxton Drive. On some days in mid-May, the trees seem almost alive with Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Northern Orioles. It's quite possible to see over 70 species in a day just at this one location.

Bayside Cottages

In the winter months, a walk along the cottage road may

yield Evening Grosbeaks, Northern Cardinals, a few Common Grackles, Dark-eyed Juncos, and, during the years when the winter finches invade Presqu'ile Point, flocks of Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins.

Customs Dock

From the Customs Dock (west of Cal Pasture Point on Bayside Road), you get an excellent view of Presqu'ile Bay and the tens of thousands of ducks which collect there during spring migration (February to April). If there are Tundra Swans to be seen, this is the most likely spot to find them. During March, when several thousand gulls collect in the Bay, Glaucous and Iceland Gulls may be among them.

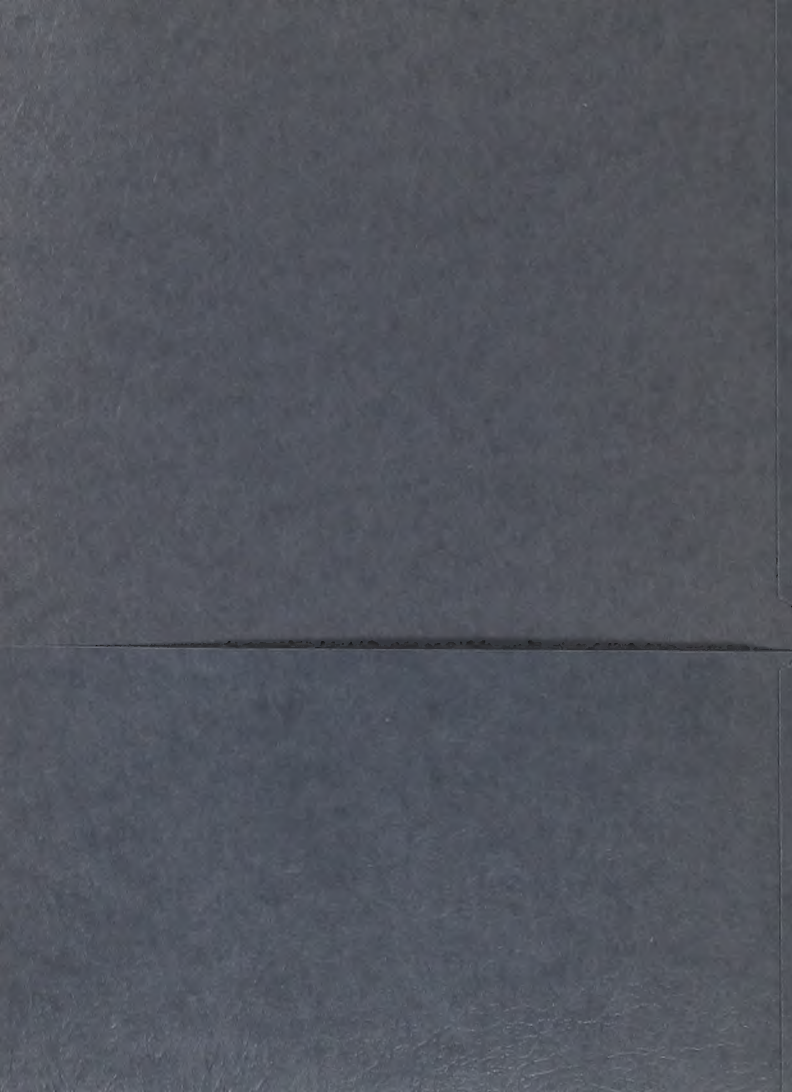
This has been a very brief look at when and where to go birding at Presqu'ile. The places mentioned are by no means the only spots to birdwatch on the peninsula. The marsh near the Campground Office is always interesting, as is a walk through any of the park's deciduous forests.

For a complete summary of the seasonal occurrence of birds at Presqu'ile, you should obtain a copy of the park's Bird Checklist. Those with further questions, are encouraged to stop by the Visitor Centre or to contact Presqu'ile's head naturalist, Steve LaForest, at (613) 475-2204. ■

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